

DARWIN - Highlights from Household Expenditure Survey 2003-04

- Darwin had the highest average household expenditure (\$1,080 a week).
- Darwin also had the highest level of gross household income (\$1,415 a week).
- Between 1998-99 and 2003-04, total expenditure on goods and services in Darwin increased by 19%, a figure that was lower than the increase for Australia as a whole (26%) and the lowest increase of any capital city.
- Comparing each category of goods and services expenditure, Darwin had the highest expenditures on:
 - current housing costs (\$184 a week);
 - alcoholic beverages (\$39 a week), with higher weekly expenditure on beer (\$16) than for any other capital city;
 - tobacco products (\$14 a week, although down from the 1998-99 figure of \$17 a week);
 - household services and operation (\$66 a week);
 - recreation (\$188 a week) with higher weekly expenditure on televisions (\$8 a week) than any other capital city.
- Darwin did not record the lowest expenditure in any broad expenditure category.
- Significant increases in expenditure over the five years from 1998-99 were on pay TV (up 593%), mobile telephone charges (up 102%) and health and accident insurance (up 56%).

Differences in demographic characteristics of households help to explain Darwin's relatively high levels of expenditure. These factors include:

- The proportion of Darwin households with wages and salaries income as the principal source of income was the highest (73%).
- The average number of persons in Darwin households aged under 65 was relatively high (2.5).
- The proportion of households that owned their own home with a mortgage was relatively high (43%).

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Average weekly expenditure (\$)	938	888	820	814	871	753	1,038	1,052	883
Mean gross household income per week (\$)	1,212	1,134	1,036	1,033	1,098	897	1,401	1,399	1,128

Extract from Tables 25 and 26 of Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 2003-04 (cat. no. 6530.0).

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